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The BlOODZ MASSACRE AT EOSTON:

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\text { Perpetrated March } 5,1770
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## B Y <br> DETER THACHER, A.M.

Afellum in prato timidus pafcebat fence Is, hoftium clamore fubito rerritus,
Susdebat afizo fugere, ne pellent capi.
At ille lextus: guafo, sum biats mihi,
Clitellas impofiturum vietorgm putas?
Sezex negavit. Ergo guid refert mea,
Cui ferriam? Clitelias dum porterameas.

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W \mathbb{T} E: R T O W N:
$$

Printed and Sold by BENJAMIN EDES, on the Bridge, M,DCe, LXXVIs

At a Meeting of the Freelolders and other Inbabitants of the Town of BOSTON, legally afembled of Wateriown, MARCH gth, $\$ 176$.

TOTED, That the Thanks of the Inhabitants of the Town of Bofon, be given to the Rev. Mr. PETER THACHER, for his elegant and foirited Oration, now delivered at their Requeft, in Commemoe Fation of the horrid MASSACR E perpetrated on the Evening of the $5^{\text {th }}$ of Warch, 1770, by a Party of Soldiers of the XXIXth Regiment, under the Command of Capt. Thomas Prefion.


Tored, That a Commitice be appoizted to wait upon the Revo Mr. Thacher, with the above Vote, and defire a Copy of the ORATION for the Prefs. Attent.

HILLIIAM COOPER, TOwn-Cterk.

## GENTEEMEN,

A Singere Defire to frew my Refpee ro the truly worthy Inhabitante of the Iowa of BOSTON, alone indured me to deliver the fol lowing Oratyon ; the fame Motive influences me in confenting to is Pubमication.

$$
\text { I } a \mathrm{~min},
$$

Gentemen.
Witb the utriof Repect, Your moft obedient bumble Servant?

## A N

## O R A T I O N.

MY FRIENDS,
TNHEN she ambition of Princes induces them 10 break over the facred battiers of focial compact, and to violate thore rights, which it is their dary ro defesd, they will leatve no methods unefayed to bring the people to acquiefce in their unjuntifable encroachments.

IN this catie, the pens of venalathors have, in every age, been drawn: With Machiavelian fubtilty, they have Jaboured to perfwade mankind, thas their public happinefs confined in being fubjeet to uncontrouled power ; that they were incapable of judging concerning the myfteries of governmewt ; and that it was their bitereft to deliver their eftaies, theit liberties, and theif Lives, inro the hands of an abfolete Morarch.

MITERTD hypotrites, and cringing, bale-fouled Priefts, have impiouly dared to inlift the oracies of GOD into she fervice of defpotifin; to affer, that, by the command of the fupreme lawgiver, we are bound io furrender owis rights into the hands of the firft bold Tytant, who dares to feize them; and that when fo feized, it is rebellion againet God, and treafon againt the Prince, for us to attempe to refume rhem.

## 6 An OR A T \& O N.

DEPRAVED as is the human underfanding, it hath yot freagth enoagh so difern the ridiculous falacy of thefe affertions : The votaries of ignorance and fuperftition may indeed be impofed upon by them : When we place unlimited confidence in our civil or fpiritual fathers, we can fwallow, with eafer the mof improbable dogmas ; but there are feslings in the hiuman heart, which compel men to recognize their own rights, to venerate the majefy of The people, and to defpife the infule which is offered to their underfandingse by there doatiog abfurdities. Had princes no other methods to aecomplifha their purgofes, could they not eftablifh their ufurpation, without convincing mens judgments of their utility, they would be more harmlefs to mankind than they bave ever yet been? They migat be furrounded with the fafcinating gewgaws of regal pomp; 2 few parafites might bow the knee before thefe idols o their own crating; the weak and the wicked might obey their mandates; but the baneful influence which they now have upon the interefts of individuals, and of fociety, would come to a period : they would not revel in the foils of nations, not trample upon the rwins of public Liberty

CONSCIOUS of this, they have ufed arguments, and purfued methods, ent Birely different from the fe, to effed their defigns ; infead of convincing the underftandings, they have adderefed chemfelves so the paftons of men: The afts of bribery and corruption have been cried with a faral fuccefs: Men, We. know, have fold their children, their councry, and their GOD, for a fmalh guantity of gainued dirs, whick will terif swith the ufing.

EXTENSZVE as are the revenues of princes, they are fill inadequate to the purpora of bribing large communties to fubmit to their pleafure; corm rupting cherefore a fev, they have overawed the reff; from small beginnings. and under fpecious pretences, they will raife a flanding military force, the mof: 4ucceffoull sigine ever yet wellded by tie hand of dawlefs domization.

## An COIR A T TCO N.

WITHR fuch a force, it is caly for an ambicicus prince, poffeffed by nature -f very fender abilities, to fubvert every principle of liberty in she conftitupion of his government, and to render his people the mont abject of naves; if any individual feels the infury done to his country, and winhes to reftore it to a fate of happiners, with a bayonet at his breaft, a dragoon will compel hima To filence: If the people, awakened to fee their intereft and their duty, affemble for the fame purpofe, a miliary force is at hand to fubdue them, and by Deaden argumens, to convinee them of their error.

AN eafy, tafo would it be to enlarge upon the fatat confequences of keep. ing up fuch a fanding army in time of peace, and of quartering a lawlefs body of men, who defpife the juf reffraints of civil aythority, in free and populous cities : That no veftige of freedom can remain in a flate where fuch a force exifts ; that the morals of the people will be gradually corrupted ; that they will contract fuch an habit of tame fubmiffion, as to become an eafy prey to the brutal yyrant who rules them; hath been heretofore largely and plainly demonfrated, by perfons fo much more capable of doing it, than the who is feeaking, that it would be prefamption in him to attempt it now

THERE is no need of recurting to the ancient hiffories of Greace and Rome, for infances of thefe traths. The Britifin nation, once famous for its atrachment to freedom, and enthufiafically jealous of its rights, is now become a great came beaft, which ferches and carries for any miniller whar pleafes to employ is.

ENGLISIIMEN have been wont to boat of the excellence of their eave Ltifution; to boaft that io contained whatever was excellént, ita every form of government;

## 8 AN ORATION.

government, hitherto, by the wit of man devifed; in their King, whofe power was limited, they have afferted that they enjoyed the advantages of Monarchy, withour fear of its evils: While their houfe of Commons, chofem by the fuffrages of the people, and dependant upon them, reprefented a re. public; their houle of peers, forming a balance of power between the king and the people, gave them the benefit of an ariflocracy. In theory; the Britifn confitution is, on many accouns, excellent; but when we obferve it reduced to practice, when we oblerve the Britifh government, as it has becte, for a long courfe of years, adminiftered, we muft be convinced that its boafted adyantages are not real: The management of the public revenue, the appointment of civil and military officers, are vefted in the king: Improving the advantages which thefe powers give him, he hath found means to corrupt the other branches of the legiflature : Britons pleafe themfelves with the thought of being free; their tyrant fuffers them to enjoy the fadow, whilf he himfelf grafps the fubftance of power. Impofible would it have been for the kings of England to have acquired fach an exorbitant power, bad they not had a ftanding army ander their command : With the officers of this army they have bribed naen to facrifice the rights of their country: Having arffully got their arms out of the hands of the people, with their mercenary forces, they have awed them into fubmifion. When they have appeared, at any time, difpofed to affert theiff freed m, thefe eroops have been ready to obey the mandates of their fovereign, to imbrue their hands in the blood of their brethren.

HAVING \{ound the efficecy of this method to quell a fipirt of liberty in the people of Great-Britain, the righteous adminiftration of the righteous king, George the third, detormined to ery the experiment upon the people of Ame* riea. To fright us into fubmiftion to their unjuftifable claims, they fent a mill. zary force to the town of Bonon. This day leads us to reflect upon the fatal cffects of the meafure! By their intercourfe with troops, made up in general

## An ORATAON.

of the moft abasdoned of men, the morals of out youth were corrupted: The remples and the day of oun God were feandalonfly prophaned: We expericin ced the moft provoking infults; and at length faw the freens of Bofton frewed with the corpfer of five of its inkabitants, murdered in coal blood, by the Brivifo mercenarics.

THE indignant rage which fwelled your bofoms upen this occafion, the forti"tude and humanity which you difcovered, the anguifh of the friends and telatives of the dead and wounded, with all the herrors of that memorable night, have been panted in vivid colours by an HANCOCK and a WARREN : They have fhewn the neceffity of thore exertions made by the town, which de. feated at that time, the defigns of the enemies to American liberty, and preferted us, for the prefent, from the calanities of war.

BUT the pan year hath preferted us wifh a Tragedy more Ariking, becaufe more extenfive, than this: A Tragedy, which more plainly proves the fatal effers of kesping up flanding armies in time of peace, than any arguments whatfocver: We have feen the ground crimfoned with the goce of hundreds of our fellow-citizens, -we have feen the firft city in America fot wealch and extent, depopulated, we have feen others deftroyed, and heard our favage cne"; snies breathing our thirftings for our blood.

FINDING their arts infufficient to flatter, or their steafures to bribe the people of America, out of their freedom, the Britith government determined, by "force, to fubjugate them to their arbitrary will: In confequence of this determihation, a large party of their troops marched from Bofton, on the morning of the stiz menotablevineteenth of A prill laft, fuhthed with the hopes of certain vidory.

10 AN O R A TION.
and defying the armies of the living God, they broke through every divine and political obligation; they wantoned in cruelty; they Red again American blood:a

AROUSED by the unprovoked injury, like a lion, awaking from his Inanber, we fprang to arms! we felc ourfelves infpired with the fpirit of our anceio? tors, we heard our brethrens blood crying to us for vengeance, we ruthed into the midft of battle: we compelled our eneraies to betake chemfelves to a difgracefal fight, we purfued them with avidity, and defifted noe thl they took re. uge in that city, of which, by fraud and treachery, they had poffered themfelves.

TRUSTING to the divine protection, from that hour we determined neve: so heathe the fword, till-we had reparation for ourtmjuries, till we had fecured our own freedom and the freedom of our pofterity: From that Mour the den of our enemies bath been furrounded by an American army, brave and delersined: although shey had before boafed of their fuperiority ro,all the uroops in she world, they have fcarcely dared to fer their feet out of their fròng holds fince thas time; and inftead of yavaging the American Continent in a fingle campaign. with a fingle regiment, they have proceeded ——ome mile and an holf in the conguef of it.

THE heights of Charieflown witneffed ro the world, that Americans, fight ing in the caufe of freedom, were a lormidable foe: although they were furrounded by troops, hitherto deemed invincible; alihough they faw she babitaw sions of their countrymen inveloped with flames ; alchough the canmon roared on every guarer, and they beheld feenes of defolation and bloodthee, ro which they were entirely unufed, yet they retired nos till they had compelled their

## AN ORATMON.

enomy wice to retrear, and hat expended the whole of their ammunitias: Whe Britifl forces gained the ground, but they lof the flower of their army.

EROM one end of the contrnant to the ather, a feries of fuccefies hath atn rended the Arnerican arms, inftead of having troops of favages poured down to our frontiers, (which the murderous policy of the tyrant of Britain induced him to attempt) we have, througb the favour of Heaven, earried our victorious arons into the very bowels of Canada; inftead of having our fores and provinfionscut off by the eamm, we bave made important captures from them : Suecefs hath crowned our enterprizes, while difappointment hath followed thofe who oppore us.

THAT elation of firit, which is excited by our victories, is dampea by oun Seling the calamities of war. To hear the expiring groans of our beloved couthrrymen; to behold the flames of our habitations, once the abodes of peace and plenty, àfending to Heaven, to fee ruin and defolation fpread over our fruiffud villages, muft occafion fenfations in the higheit degree painfal.

THIS Day, upon which the gloomy 距隹 was frll opened, calls upon as so mourn for the Heroes who have already died in the bed of honour, fighting fer GOD and their country. Efpecially, does it head us io recolleĉ the name and the virtues of General WARREN! the kind; the humane, the benevolens triend; in the private walks of life, the inflexible pattiot, the undaunted com. mandes in his public fyhere, deferyes tate recollesed wist gratisude ind efeem!

This audience, acquainted, in the mof intimate manner, with his numberlefo virtues, muft feel his lefs, and bemoan sheir beloved, their entrufted fellow. citizen! Ah! my countrymen, what tender, what excruciating fenfations rufh at once upon our burdened minds, when we recall his lov"d idea! when we reffect upan the manner of his death; when we fancy that we fee his favage enemics exulting o'er his corple, beautiful even in death; when we remember that def. Pitute of the rites of fepulture, he was caf into the ground, without the dif. finction due to his ranksand merit; we cannot reftrain the narting tear, we eannot reprefs the burfing figh! We mours thine exit, illuntious flade, with undiffembled grief; we venerate thine exalted character; we will ercet a mamunsent to thy memory in each of our gratefni breafs, and to the laten ages, will teach our iender infants to lifp the name of WARREN, with penerails a and applause!

WHEN we rrayetfe the Camadian whes, and come to the piains of Abra. ham, where WOLFE once fell, we are sbere again compelled to pay a tribute so exalted merit, and to lament the fall of the great MONTGOMERY! War. med with a firit of parriotifm, too lintle felt by his venal councrymen, he efpoufed the caufe of American freedem: He lefi domeftic eafe and aftluence: He girded on the fword which he had long laid aflde, and jeoparded bis life on the - bigh places of the feld : Viefory followed hisflandard, fos hover'd o'er his head, and crowned it with the laurel wreath: She was junt ready to hail him the Conquevor of Canada when the fatal fifiers fnapped, in a moment the thread of life, and feized, from bis eager grafp, the untathed eonquef! Americans, bear Witnefs to his humanity and his valour, for he died figheing in your caufe and the eaufe of mankind ! let his memory live in your breafts ; let is be hander down so your potterity, that millions yes unborn may rife up and call kim bleged!

## AN゙ O 质 ATMON.

THE tender feelings of the human heart are deepiy affected with the Fate of thefe and the other heroes who have bled and died, wat their country may be free: Bur at the fame time, fenfations of indignant wrath, are excited in the breaft of every friend so freedom: He will litten to the yoice of their blood, which cries aloud to heaven, and to him for vengesnce ! He will feel himfelf animated with new vigor is the glorious caufe: Nothing daunted by their untimely fate, he will ruft into the midit of danger, that he may fare their glory, and avenge their death! Every idea which, con warm and animate him to glotious deeds, will. sulh as once upon his mind; ard when enggged in the warmef battle, he will hear them, from their heaven, urging him to action: He will feel their fpirits transfufed into his breant ; he will Gacrifice wbole hecatombs of their
 (xomint lo pamdo wide is ant kitpe

INDEED, my enuntrymen, the peepie of Armerica have every thing to animate and sncourage them in the prefent contef. Formidable as was once the power of the BritigLion, he hath now lon bis teeth; univerfal diffipation hath taken place of that fimplicity of manners, and hardinefs of integrity, for which the nation was once remarkable: The officers of the Britifh army, inftead of inuring themfelves to difcipline, and feeking for glory in the blood-ftained feld, wifh alone to captivate the fofter fex, and eriumph over their virtue. The legiflature of Great-Britain is cotally corrupt ; her adminiftration is arbitrary and tyrannical ; the people have loft their Spirit of refentment ; and like the moft contemptible of animals, bow the foulder so bear and become fervants unto tribule. The national refources are cus off; The is loaded with an intolerable public debt; the is become the fcorn of thofe foreigners, to whom the was once terrible; and it is eafy to ree that her glory is in the wane.

HOW different from this is the prefent flate of our country! Defeended from a race of hardy anceftors, who loved sheir freedom better than they loved their lives; the Americans are jealous of the leaft infringement of their righe ; ftrangers to that luxury, which efferminates the mind and body; they are capable of enduring incredible hardftips ; with eagernels they ruth into the field of batile, and brave with coolnefs, every danger: They poffefs a rich and a fruitful country, fufficient to fupply them with every neceflary and conveniesce of life; they have inexhamfible refources for carrying on war, and bid fair foan to bo courted for their alliance, by the proudef Monarchs of the earth. Their, fatefmen are equal to the tafk of forming and defending a free and extenfive empire : Their Generals are brave and humane, intrepid and prudent. When I name a WASHINGTON, my audience will feel the juftice of the remark, and acquit me of the charge of flattery

POSSESSED of theife advantages, we frould be insutufable to God, to our pofterity, to the whole world, if we hefitated, a fingle moment, in affersing our right, and repelling the attacks of lawlefs power: Freedom is offered to kg, the invises us to accept her blefings; driven from the other regions of the globe, fhe withes to find an afylum in the wilds of America; with open atms, let us receive the perfecated fair, let us imirate the example of our venerable anceflars, who loved and courted her into thefe defert climes. With determined bravery, let us reffit the attacks of her impudent ravifhers; by pefolution and flrmefs we may defend her from their nower, and franfmit Aer bleffings to millions upon miltions of our pofterity. Let us then atoufe 20 spers ! For, upon our exertions, underGod, depends their freedem, upon can exertions depends the important gucfion, whether the rifing empire af facices, finll bo an empiec of frazes of of fremen.

## AN $O R A T I O N$

ANIMATED by thefe confiderations, my friends and fellow-citizens, let us ftrain every nerve in the fervice of our country! What are our lives, when viewed in competition with the happinefs of fuch an empire! What is our private intereft, when oppofed to that of three millions of men! Let our bofoms glow with warmth of patriotifm ; let us facrifice our eafe, our fortuncs and our lives, that we may fave our oouatry.

THAT a firit of public virtae may tranfeend every privase confideration, you, the refpected inhabitants of the Town of - Bofton, have plainly manifefted: With pleafure you have facrificed what felfin men hold moft dear, to fave this oppreffed land! With firmnefs you have refifed every attack of arbitrary power! Like the flurdy oak, you have ftood unmoved, and to you, under God, will be owing the falvation of this extenive contiaen.

WE feel, my beloved friends, our obligations so you ! Our hearts confefs them ; we cordially wifh it were in our power to reward you for your patriotifm; to reflore you to that eafe and affluence, of which, for our fakes, you have deprived yourfelves; it is not. But our morning and evening petitions to the guardian God of America. Chall be, that he will blefs and seward you.

WITH traniport, my countrymen, let us look forward to the bright day, which fall hail us a free and independant flate. With earneftnefs les us implore the forgivenefs and the patronage of the Being of all beings, who holds the fate of empires in his hands ! With zeal let us exert oars felves in the fervice of our country, in life; And when the earthly fcene Shall be clofing with us, let us expire with this prayer upon our quivere? ing lips, O GOD, LET AMERICA BETREE!

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